GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
RAILWAYS
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3255
ANSWERED ON:14.08.2003
GAUGE CONVERSION OF DEFENCE SIDING
VSM (RETD.) COL. CHOUDHARY

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Gauge conversion of Jodhpur-Jaisalmer MG section was taken up during 1994-95 and opened for BG traffic during April, 1995;

(b) whether Gauge conversion of Defence siding was to be done to assisted siding terms but the Railways completed the work without getting any deposit or even a formal acceptance of Defence authorities to bear the cost;

(c) if so, the reasons therefor and persons responsible for this lapse;

(d) whether this issue was taken up in Audit during September, 1999 whereafter Railways asked Minister of Defence to deposit Rs. 3.42 crores without including debit of Rs. 1.78 crore for interest and maintenance charges for Defence works at 4 stations; and

(e) if so, the status of recovery of this amount from Ministry of Defence and action taken against defaulting officials causing huge loss of Rs. 520 crores to the Railways?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI BANDARU DATTATRAYA)

(a) : Yes, Sir.

(b)to(d) : As per the policy, the gauge conversion was to be done on assisted siding terms. Defence Authorities were approached in June 1995 for conveying their sanction for the Defence share on conversion of sidings. This was constantly pursued with Defence Authorities and the sanction from Ministry of Defence has been received only in February 2002.Meanwhile, the issue was also taken up by the Audit.

(e) : Defence Authorities have informed that the payment will be made during the year 2003-04. After payment of the Defence share, there will be no loss to the Railways except that the payment got delayed.